

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

3 June 2002

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

The purpose of this letter is to let you know about events arranged for the summer and autumn and to keep you up to date with other news and ideas.

PAST EVENTS

The Music Ministry Day held at **Smithstone House on 20 April 2002** was well attended, and by people from all over the Diocese!

After the initial welcome, we invited three priests to share their experiences of music at Mass, and we are very grateful to Mgr Joseph Boyd (from St Paul's, Ayr), Fr Michael Farrington (from St Andrew's, Dumfries) and Fr Con Botter (from Smithstone House) for being willing to take part in this! They were then asked to respond to a wide variety of questions about liturgical music (ranging from 'What is your least favourite hymn?' to copyright law) and the morning was both informative and enjoyable!

After lunch we enjoyed a brief workshop on new hymns for Easter to Trinity. The core group's hymn survey enabled us to identify simple hymns which were likely to be new to most people. They were introduced by Nicola and the singing was started by Catrin Jeans of Girvan parish, and everyone present joined in the singing as they picked up the (usually simple) melodies.

Our final workshop of the day was led by Pat Dougan, David Robinson and members of the Cathedral choir. We were skilfully introduced to, and taught to sing, 'Mass for the Bread of Life' by Margaret Rizza. The Cathedral choir has sung this on a number of occasions, and we found it to be straightforward tuneful music that should be easily accessible to our parish congregations.

Once again, we are grateful to Smithstone House for their excellent hospitality!

Another Music Ministry Day was held at **St Teresa's Church Hall, Dumfries on 18 May 2002** and the core group was glad of another opportunity to meet people from the south of the Diocese.

In the morning, Michael McCulloch led us in singing parts of the Mass to guitar accompaniment, and also introduced us to some hymns set to (mainly Scottish) traditional tunes. After lunch, we discussed music in our parishes - the successes (and not-quite successes!), how well our congregations sing, and how music is chosen. We ended the day with a workshop led by George and Christine Gardner from Darvel, which introduced us to children's hymns suitable for Advent to Christmas, Confirmations and First Communions.

We are indebted to St Teresa's for letting us use their hall again, and providing us with refreshments.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Booking forms, posters and a bulletin notice are enclosed for the **Galloway Music Festival Mass**. We are keen to establish this as an annual event and indeed it will be our third open air Mass. We hope to see as many people as possible present. If you are able to, bring a musical instrument, or simply come along and sing. Some chairs will be available, otherwise bring a rug to sit on. It is not essential to book, but if you did it would help to give us an approximate idea of the numbers who will be attending. However, if you need a powerpoint for a musical instrument, please telephone Nicola on (01465) 714797 and we will do our best to arrange it for you.

A list of the music planned is also enclosed to give everyone the opportunity to practice and to know what music to bring on the day. If you can't find or aren't sure about anything, please telephone and we will try and help sort it out! This year we will be rehearsing from 1 pm (the Mass starts at 2.30 pm) so that everyone who can be there then will have had the opportunity to try out the music beforehand.

Please invite your Parish Priest to concelebrate the Mass. Bring a picnic for after!

We have a workshop booked with **Rev John L Bell of the Wild Goose Resource Group on Saturday 26 October 2002**. John is a much sought after speaker and composer and we needed to arrange this date with him nearly two years in advance! We will be sending out booking forms and posters with the next newsletter.

HYMN SURVEY

As promised, a sheet detailing our findings is attached.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

How to sing - by Graham Hewitt

This is an easily readable, practical book. Reading it and following the exercises will help you make the most of the voice that you have - amongst other things it covers breathing, voice production, and articulation. There's also information on bad habits and how to break them, and reading music.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr Rosamund Bourke, in conjunction with Revd Professor Leslie J Francis of the University of Wales, Bangor is carrying out a survey about Church Musicians. If you want to take part, write to Dr Bourke at 8 St Swithuns Close, East Grinstead, RH19 3BB and you will be sent a straightforward questionnaire to complete.

Don't forget to visit our web site at www.gallowaymusic.net. It is updated on a regular basis and you will find a copy of this newsletter on it! We hope shortly to be putting on more photographs taken at music events.

TO CONCLUDE . . . SPREADING THE MESSAGE

As ever, we welcome any suggestions for what the core group should be doing, and ways in which we can support and promote music. We hope very much to see you at one of the forthcoming

events or to hear from you.

With best wishes

The Music Core Group

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group
www.gallowaymusic.net

Rosina Gordon, 109 Sophia Crescent, Irvine, KA12 9BW	Tel 01294 277655
Lillian Devine, Iona, 92 Sinclair Street, Stevenston, KA20 4AL	Tel 01294 463881
George Gardner, 8 Mairs Road, Darvel, KA17 0LA	Tel 01560 322257
Margaret McGrath, 9 South Hamilton Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 2DW	Tel 01563 542130
Nicola Lawrence, 26 Louisa Drive, Girvan, KA26 9AH	Tel 01465 714797
Michael McCulloch, 17 George Aitken Court, Park View, Ardrossan, KA22 7DD	Tel 01294 604517
Gordon Lawrence, 26 Louisa Drive, Girvan, KA26 9AH	Tel 01465 714797
Father Con Botter, Smithstone House, Dalry Road, Kilwinning, KA13 6PL	Tel 01294 552515